# Artificial Intelligence Nanodegree

# **Voice User Interfaces**

# **Project: Speech Recognition with Neural Networks**

In this notebook, some template code has already been provided for you, and you will need to implement additional functionality to successfully complete this project. You will not need to modify the included code beyond what is requested. Sections that begin with '(IMPLEMENTATION)' in the header indicate that the following blocks of code will require additional functionality which you must provide. Please be sure to read the instructions carefully!

**Note**: Once you have completed all of the code implementations, you need to finalize your work by exporting the Jupyter Notebook as an HTML document. Before exporting the notebook to html, all of the code cells need to have been run so that reviewers can see the final implementation and output. You can then export the notebook by using the menu above and navigating to \n", "**File -> Download as -> HTML (.html)**. Include the finished document along with this notebook as your submission.

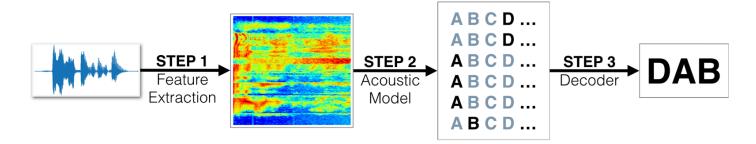
In addition to implementing code, there will be questions that you must answer which relate to the project and your implementation. Each section where you will answer a question is preceded by a **'Question X'** header. Carefully read each question and provide thorough answers in the following text boxes that begin with **'Answer:'**. Your project submission will be evaluated based on your answers to each of the questions and the implementation you provide.

**Note:** Code and Markdown cells can be executed using the **Shift + Enter** keyboard shortcut. Markdown cells can be edited by double-clicking the cell to enter edit mode.

The rubric contains *optional* "Stand Out Suggestions" for enhancing the project beyond the minimum requirements. If you decide to pursue the "Stand Out Suggestions", you should include the code in this Jupyter notebook.

# Introduction

In this notebook, you will build a deep neural network that functions as part of an end-to-end automatic speech recognition (ASR) pipeline! Your completed pipeline will accept raw audio as input and return a predicted transcription of the spoken language. The full pipeline is summarized in the figure below.



- **STEP 1** is a pre-processing step that converts raw audio to one of two feature representations that are commonly used for ASR.
- STEP 2 is an acoustic model which accepts audio features as input and returns a probability distribution over all potential transcriptions. After learning about the basic types of neural networks that are often used for acoustic modeling, you will engage in your own investigations, to design your own acoustic model!
- **STEP 3** in the pipeline takes the output from the acoustic model and returns a predicted transcription.

Feel free to use the links below to navigate the notebook:

- The Data
- STEP 1: Acoustic Features for Speech Recognition
- STEP 2: Deep Neural Networks for Acoustic Modeling
  - Model 0: RNN
  - Model 1: RNN + TimeDistributed Dense
  - Model 2: CNN + RNN + TimeDistributed Dense
  - Model 3: Deeper RNN + TimeDistributed Dense
  - Model 4: Bidirectional RNN + TimeDistributed Dense
  - Models 5+
  - Compare the Models
  - Final Model
- STEP 3: Obtain Predictions

# The Data

We begin by investigating the dataset that will be used to train and evaluate your pipeline. <u>LibriSpeech (http://www.danielpovey.com/files/2015\_icassp\_librispeech.pdf)</u> is a large corpus of English-read speech, designed for training and evaluating models for ASR. The dataset contains 1000 hours of speech derived from audiobooks. We will work with a small subset in this project, since larger-scale data would take a long while to train. However, after completing this project, if you are interested in exploring further, you are encouraged to work with more of the data that is provided <u>online (http://www.openslr.org/12/)</u>.

In the code cells below, you will use the vis\_train\_features module to visualize a training example. The supplied argument index=0 tells the module to extract the first example in the training set. (You are welcome to change index=0 to point to a different training example, if you like, but please **DO NOT** amend any other code in the cell.) The returned variables are:

- vis text transcribed text (label) for the training example.
- vis\_raw\_audio raw audio waveform for the training example.
- vis mfcc feature mel-frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCCs) for the training example.
- vis spectrogram feature spectrogram for the training example.

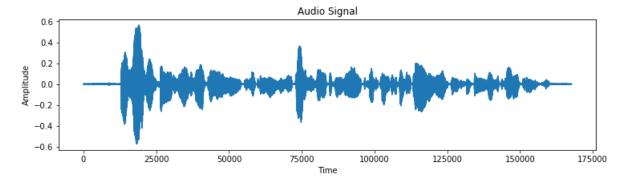
vis audio path - the file path to the training example.

```
In [1]: from data_generator import vis_train_features

# extract label and audio features for a single training example
    vis_text, vis_raw_audio, vis_mfcc_feature, vis_spectrogram_feature,
    vis_audio_path = vis_train_features()
```

There are 2136 total training examples.

The following code cell visualizes the audio waveform for your chosen example, along with the corresponding transcript. You also have the option to play the audio in the notebook!



Shape of Audio Signal: (167691,)

**Transcript**: the houses seemed miserable in the extreme especially to an eye accustomed to the smiling neatness of english cottages

Out[2]: 0:00 -0:07

# STEP 1: Acoustic Features for Speech Recognition

For this project, you won't use the raw audio waveform as input to your model. Instead, we provide code that first performs a pre-processing step to convert the raw audio to a feature representation that has historically proven successful for ASR models. Your acoustic model will accept the feature representation as input.

In this project, you will explore two possible feature representations. *After completing the project*, if you'd like to read more about deep learning architectures that can accept raw audio input, you are encouraged to explore this <u>research paper</u>

(https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/a566/cd4a8623d661a4931814d9dffc72ecbf63c4.pdf).

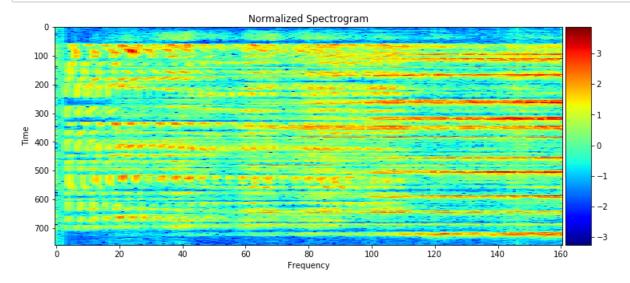
# **Spectrograms**

The first option for an audio feature representation is the <u>spectrogram (https://www.youtube.com/watch? v= FatxGN3vAM)</u>. In order to complete this project, you will **not** need to dig deeply into the details of how a spectrogram is calculated; but, if you are curious, the code for calculating the spectrogram was borrowed from <u>this repository (https://github.com/baidu-research/ba-dls-deepspeech)</u>. The implementation appears in the utils.py file in your repository.

The code that we give you returns the spectrogram as a 2D tensor, where the first (*vertical*) dimension indexes time, and the second (*horizontal*) dimension indexes frequency. To speed the convergence of your algorithm, we have also normalized the spectrogram. (You can see this quickly in the visualization below by noting that the mean value hovers around zero, and most entries in the tensor assume values close to zero.)

In [3]: from data\_generator import plot\_spectrogram\_feature

# plot normalized spectrogram
plot\_spectrogram\_feature(vis\_spectrogram\_feature)
# print shape of spectrogram
display(Markdown('\*\*Shape of Spectrogram\*\*: ' + str(vis\_spectrogram\_feature.shape)))



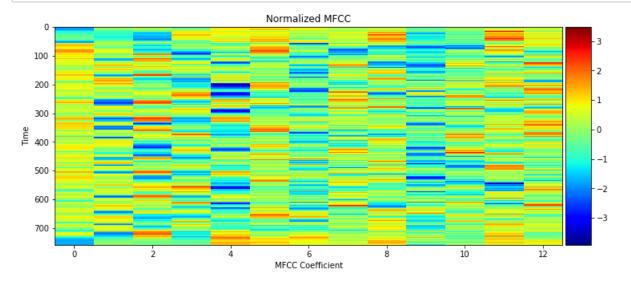
Shape of Spectrogram: (759, 161)

# **Mel-Frequency Cepstral Coefficients (MFCCs)**

The second option for an audio feature representation is <a href="MFCCs">MFCCs</a> (<a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mel-frequency\_cepstrum">MFCCs</a> are calculated, but if you would like more information, you are welcome to peruse the <a href="https://github.com/jameslyons/python\_speech\_features">documentation</a> (<a href="https://github.com/jameslyons/python\_speech\_features">https://github.com/jameslyons/python\_speech\_features</a>) of the <a href="https://github.com/jameslyons/python\_speech\_features">python\_speech\_features</a> Python <a href="package">package</a>. Just as with the spectrogram features, the MFCCs are normalized in the supplied code.

The main idea behind MFCC features is the same as spectrogram features: at each time window, the MFCC feature yields a feature vector that characterizes the sound within the window. Note that the MFCC feature is much lower-dimensional than the spectrogram feature, which could help an acoustic model to avoid overfitting to the training dataset.

# In [4]: from data\_generator import plot\_mfcc\_feature # plot normalized MFCC plot\_mfcc\_feature(vis\_mfcc\_feature) # print shape of MFCC display(Markdown('\*\*Shape of MFCC\*\*: ' + str(vis\_mfcc\_feature.shape)))



**Shape of MFCC**: (759, 13)

When you construct your pipeline, you will be able to choose to use either spectrogram or MFCC features. If you would like to see different implementations that make use of MFCCs and/or spectrograms, please check out the links below:

- This repository (https://github.com/baidu-research/ba-dls-deepspeech) uses spectrograms.
- This repository (https://github.com/mozilla/DeepSpeech) uses MFCCs.
- This repository (https://github.com/buriburisuri/speech-to-text-wavenet) also uses MFCCs.
- This <u>repository (https://github.com/pannous/tensorflow-speech-recognition/blob/master/speech\_data.py)</u> experiments with raw audio, spectrograms, and MFCCs as features.

# STEP 2: Deep Neural Networks for Acoustic Modeling

In this section, you will experiment with various neural network architectures for acoustic modeling.

You will begin by training five relatively simple architectures. **Model 0** is provided for you. You will write code to implement **Models 1**, **2**, **3**, and **4**. If you would like to experiment further, you are welcome to create and train more models under the **Models 5+** heading.

All models will be specified in the sample\_models.py file. After importing the sample\_models module, you will train your architectures in the notebook.

After experimenting with the five simple architectures, you will have the opportunity to compare their performance. Based on your findings, you will construct a deeper architecture that is designed to outperform all of the shallow models.

For your convenience, we have designed the notebook so that each model can be specified and trained on separate occasions. That is, say you decide to take a break from the notebook after training **Model 1**. Then, you need not re-execute all prior code cells in the notebook before training **Model 2**. You need only re-execute the code cell below, that is marked with **RUN THIS CODE CELL IF YOU ARE RESUMING THE NOTEBOOK AFTER A BREAK**, before transitioning to the code cells corresponding to **Model 2**.

```
# RUN THIS CODE CELL IF YOU ARE RESUMING THE NOTEBOOK AFTER A BREAK
      ##
      # allocate 50% of GPU memory (if you like, feel free to change this
      from keras.backend.tensorflow_backend import set session
      import tensorflow as tf
      config = tf.ConfigProto()
      config.gpu_options.per_process_gpu_memory_fraction = 0.5
      set session(tf.Session(config=config))
      # watch for any changes in the sample_models module, and reload it
      automatically
      %load_ext autoreload
      %autoreload 2
      # import NN architectures for speech recognition
      from sample models import *
      # import function for training acoustic model
      from train utils import train model
```

/home/vikhanna/anaconda3/envs/tfintro/lib/python3.6/site-packages/h5py/\_\_init\_\_.py:34: FutureWarning: Conversion of the second argum ent of issubdtype from `float` to `np.floating` is deprecated. In future, it will be treated as `np.float64 == np.dtype(float).type`

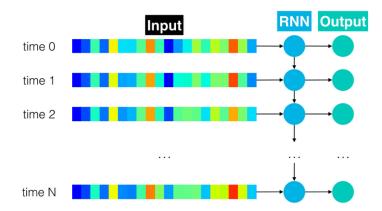
from .\_conv import register\_converters as \_register\_converters
Using TensorFlow backend.

/home/vikhanna/anaconda3/envs/tfintro/lib/python3.6/importlib/\_bootstrap.py:219: RuntimeWarning: compiletime version 3.5 of module 'tensorflow.python.framework.fast\_tensor\_util' does not match runtime version 3.6

return f(\*args, \*\*kwds)

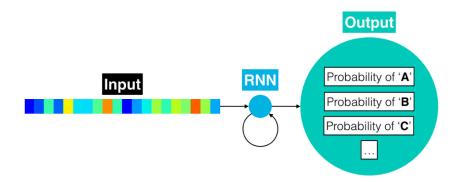
### Model 0: RNN

Given their effectiveness in modeling sequential data, the first acoustic model you will use is an RNN. As shown in the figure below, the RNN we supply to you will take the time sequence of audio features as input.



At each time step, the speaker pronounces one of 28 possible characters, including each of the 26 letters in the English alphabet, along with a space character (" "), and an apostrophe (').

The output of the RNN at each time step is a vector of probabilities with 29 entries, where the i-th entry encodes the probability that the i-th character is spoken in the time sequence. (The extra 29th character is an empty "character" used to pad training examples within batches containing uneven lengths.) If you would like to peek under the hood at how characters are mapped to indices in the probability vector, look at the char\_map.py file in the repository. The figure below shows an equivalent, rolled depiction of the RNN that shows the output layer in greater detail.



The model has already been specified for you in Keras. To import it, you need only run the code cell below.

In [6]: model\_0 = simple\_rnn\_model(input\_dim=161) # change to 13 if you wou
 ld like to use MFCC features

Layer (type)	Output Shape	Param #
the_input (InputLayer)	(None, None, 161)	0
rnn (GRU)	(None, None, 29)	16617
softmax (Activation)	(None, None, 29)	0

Total params: 16,617 Trainable params: 16,617 Non-trainable params: 0

None

As explored in the lesson, you will train the acoustic model with the <u>CTC loss</u> (<a href="http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~graves/icml\_2006.pdf">http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~graves/icml\_2006.pdf</a>) criterion. Custom loss functions take a bit of hacking in Keras, and so we have implemented the CTC loss function for you, so that you can focus on trying out as many deep learning architectures as possible:). If you'd like to peek at the implementation details, look at the add ctc loss function within the train utils.py file in the repository.

To train your architecture, you will use the train\_model function within the train\_utils module; it has already been imported in one of the above code cells. The train\_model function takes three required arguments:

- input to softmax a Keras model instance.
- pickle path the name of the pickle file where the loss history will be saved.
- save model path the name of the HDF5 file where the model will be saved.

If we have already supplied values for input\_to\_softmax, pickle\_path, and save\_model\_path, please **DO NOT** modify these values.

There are several **optional** arguments that allow you to have more control over the training process. You are welcome to, but not required to, supply your own values for these arguments.

- minibatch\_size the size of the minibatches that are generated while training the model (default: 20).
- spectrogram Boolean value dictating whether spectrogram (True) or MFCC (False) features are used for training (default: True).
- mfcc\_dim the size of the feature dimension to use when generating MFCC features (default: 13).
- optimizer the Keras optimizer used to train the model (default: SGD(1r=0.02, decay=1e-6, momentum=0.9, nesterov=True, clipnorm=5)).
- epochs the number of epochs to use to train the model (default: 20). If you choose to modify this parameter, make sure that it is at least 20.
- verbose controls the verbosity of the training output in the model.fit\_generator method (default: 1).
- sort by duration Boolean value dictating whether the training and validation sets are

sorted by (increasing) duration before the start of the first epoch (default: False).

The train\_model function defaults to using spectrogram features; if you choose to use these features, note that the acoustic model in simple\_rnn\_model should have input\_dim=161. Otherwise, if you choose to use MFCC features, the acoustic model should have input\_dim=13.

We have chosen to use GRU units in the supplied RNN. If you would like to experiment with LSTM or SimpleRNN cells, feel free to do so here. If you change the GRU units to SimpleRNN cells in simple\_rnn\_model, you may notice that the loss quickly becomes undefined (nan) - you are strongly encouraged to check this for yourself! This is due to the exploding gradients problem (http://www.wildml.com/2015/10/recurrent-neural-networks-tutorial-part-3-backpropagation-through-time-and-vanishing-gradients/). We have already implemented gradient clipping (https://arxiv.org/pdf/1211.5063.pdf) in your optimizer to help you avoid this issue.

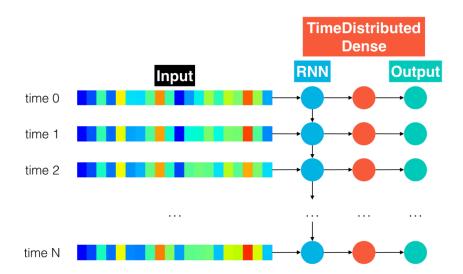
**IMPORTANT NOTE:** If you notice that your gradient has exploded in any of the models below, feel free to explore more with gradient clipping (the clipnorm argument in your optimizer) or swap out any SimpleRNN cells for LSTM or GRU cells. You can also try restarting the kernel to restart the training process.

```
In [7]: train model(input to softmax=model 0,
          pickle path='model 0.pickle',
          save model path='model 0.h5',
          spectrogram=True) # change to False if you would like t
    o use MFCC features
    Epoch 1/20
    847.1471 - val loss: 749.3065
    Epoch 2/20
    767.9227 - val loss: 729.5568
    Epoch 3/20
    752.4149 - val loss: 715.9894
    Epoch 4/20
    106/106 [=============] - 93s 879ms/step - loss:
    752.7856 - val loss: 734.6808
    Epoch 5/20
    751.3757 - val loss: 724.9733
    Epoch 6/20
    752.5764 - val loss: 735.1793
    Epoch 7/20
    753.5881 - val loss: 723.7596
    Epoch 8/20
    752.5983 - val loss: 717.3596
    Epoch 9/20
    752.2164 - val loss: 730.8622
    Epoch 10/20
    752.0283 - val loss: 722.4910
```

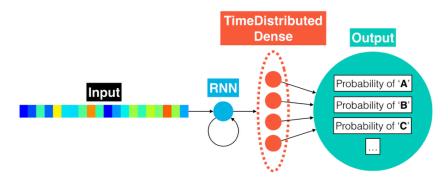
```
Epoch 11/20
751.9560 - val loss: 726.8434
Epoch 12/20
106/106 [============= ] - 92s 872ms/step - loss:
752.3497 - val loss: 721.7659
Epoch 13/20
753.3185 - val_loss: 727.0403
Epoch 14/20
751.6805 - val loss: 723.2810
Epoch 15/20
752.5645 - val_loss: 725.4700
Epoch 16/20
752.8108 - val loss: 724.0627
Epoch 17/20
752.0375 - val_loss: 730.2679
Epoch 18/20
752.2571 - val loss: 724.7671
Epoch 19/20
106/106 [============= ] - 93s 879ms/step - loss:
753.1195 - val loss: 729.0698
Epoch 20/20
751.6247 - val_loss: 730.3190
```

## (IMPLEMENTATION) Model 1: RNN + TimeDistributed Dense

Read about the <u>TimeDistributed (https://keras.io/layers/wrappers/)</u> wrapper and the <u>BatchNormalization (https://keras.io/layers/normalization/)</u> layer in the Keras documentation. For your next architecture, you will add <u>batch normalization (https://arxiv.org/pdf/1510.01378.pdf)</u> to the recurrent layer to reduce training times. The <u>TimeDistributed</u> layer will be used to find more complex patterns in the dataset. The unrolled snapshot of the architecture is depicted below.



The next figure shows an equivalent, rolled depiction of the RNN that shows the (TimeDistrbuted) dense and output layers in greater detail.



Use your research to complete the rnn\_model function within the sample\_models.py file. The function should specify an architecture that satisfies the following requirements:

- The first layer of the neural network should be an RNN (SimpleRNN, LSTM, or GRU) that takes the time sequence of audio features as input. We have added GRU units for you, but feel free to change GRU to SimpleRNN or LSTM, if you like!
- Whereas the architecture in simple\_rnn\_model treated the RNN output as the final layer of
  the model, you will use the output of your RNN as a hidden layer. Use TimeDistributed to
  apply a Dense layer to each of the time steps in the RNN output. Ensure that each Dense layer
  has output\_dim units.

Use the code cell below to load your model into the model\_1 variable. Use a value for input\_dim that matches your chosen audio features, and feel free to change the values for units and activation to tweak the behavior of your recurrent layer.

Output	Shape		Param #
(None,	None,	161)	0
(None,	None,	200)	217200
(None,	None,	200)	800
(None,	None,	29)	5829
(None,	None,	29)	0
	(None, (None, (None,	(None, None, (None, None,	Output Shape  (None, None, 161)  (None, None, 200)  (None, None, 200)  (None, None, 29)  (None, None, 29)

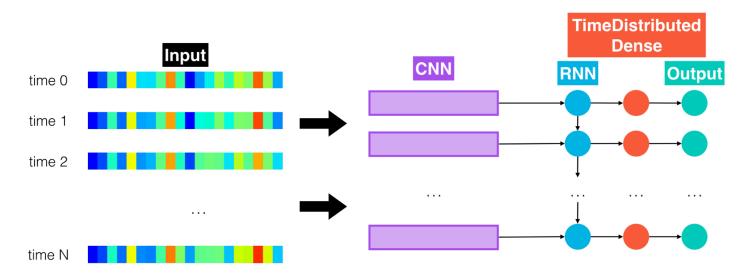
Please execute the code cell below to train the neural network you specified in input\_to\_softmax. After the model has finished training, the model is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_1.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_1.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_1.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_1.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_1.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_1.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in model\_1.pickle. You are welcome to tweak any of the optional parameters while calling the train model function, but this is not required.

```
In [9]: train_model(input_to_softmax=model_1,
             pickle path='model 1.pickle',
             save model path='model 1.h5',
             spectrogram=True) # change to False if you would like t
     o use MFCC features
     Epoch 1/20
     1.0773 - val loss: 252.0340
     Epoch 2/20
     6.2886 - val loss: 189.9892
     Epoch 3/20
     106/106 [=============== ] - 303s 3s/step - loss: 18
     2.2930 - val loss: 177.2135
     Epoch 4/20
     5.0607 - val loss: 163.7288
     Epoch 5/20
     4.4846 - val loss: 155.3109
     Epoch 6/20
     106/106 [============== ] - 303s 3s/step - loss: 14
     7.8879 - val_loss: 152.3052
```

```
Epoch 7/20
106/106 [============== ] - 302s 3s/step - loss: 14
3.1022 - val loss: 146.7390
Epoch 8/20
106/106 [============== ] - 302s 3s/step - loss: 13
8.8488 - val loss: 145.4917
Epoch 9/20
6.7408 - val_loss: 142.0938
Epoch 10/20
4.5553 - val loss: 146.8523
Epoch 11/20
106/106 [============== ] - 303s 3s/step - loss: 13
1.8256 - val loss: 142.5690
Epoch 12/20
0.4439 - val loss: 139.1944
Epoch 13/20
106/106 [============== ] - 304s 3s/step - loss: 12
9.4827 - val loss: 139.7808
Epoch 14/20
7.7775 - val loss: 139.2888
Epoch 15/20
106/106 [============== ] - 309s 3s/step - loss: 12
6.9524 - val loss: 138.6233
Epoch 16/20
106/106 [============== ] - 303s 3s/step - loss: 12
5.7888 - val loss: 154.8891
Epoch 17/20
106/106 [============= ] - 301s 3s/step - loss: 12
7.1065 - val loss: 139.3722
Epoch 18/20
6.0230 - val loss: 142.4416
Epoch 19/20
106/106 [============== ] - 301s 3s/step - loss: 12
8.5043 - val loss: 141.8827
Epoch 20/20
106/106 [============== ] - 302s 3s/step - loss: 12
6.0828 - val loss: 138.1669
```

# (IMPLEMENTATION) Model 2: CNN + RNN + TimeDistributed Dense

The architecture in cnn\_rnn\_model adds an additional level of complexity, by introducing a <u>1D</u> convolution layer (https://keras.io/layers/convolutional/#conv1d).



This layer incorporates many arguments that can be (optionally) tuned when calling the cnn\_rnn\_model module. We provide sample starting parameters, which you might find useful if you choose to use spectrogram audio features.

If you instead want to use MFCC features, these arguments will have to be tuned. Note that the current architecture only supports values of 'same' or 'valid' for the conv\_border\_mode argument.

When tuning the parameters, be careful not to choose settings that make the convolutional layer overly small. If the temporal length of the CNN layer is shorter than the length of the transcribed text label, your code will throw an error.

Before running the code cell below, you must modify the cnn\_rnn\_model function in sample\_models.py. Please add batch normalization to the recurrent layer, and provide the same TimeDistributed layer as before.

Output	Shape		Param #
(None,	None,	161)	0
(None,	None,	200)	354400
(None,	None,	200)	800
(None,	None,	200)	80200
(None,	None,	200)	800
(None,	None,	29)	5829
(None,	None,	29)	0
	(None, (None, (None, (None, (None,	(None, None, (None, None, (None, None, (None, None, (None, None,	Output Shape  (None, None, 161)  (None, None, 200)  (None, None, 29)

Total params: 442,029
Trainable params: 441,229
Non-trainable params: 800

None

/home/vikhanna/anaconda3/envs/tfintro/lib/python3.6/site-packages/keras/layers/recurrent.py:1004: UserWarning: The `implementation` argument in `SimpleRNN` has been deprecated. Please remove it from your layer call.

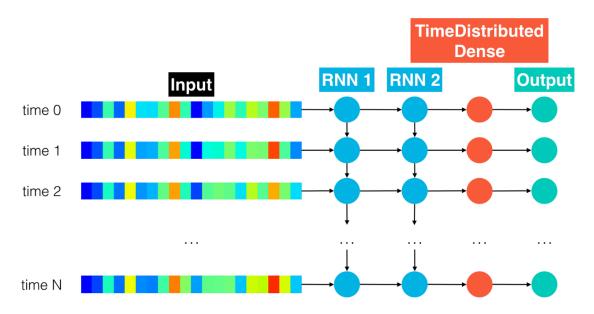
warnings.warn('The `implementation` argument '

Please execute the code cell below to train the neural network you specified in input\_to\_softmax. After the model has finished training, the model is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_2.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_2.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_2.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_2.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_2.pickle. You are welcome to tweak any of the optional parameters while calling the train model function, but this is not required.

```
Epoch 3/20
5.3043 - val loss: 151.9760
Epoch 4/20
106/106 [============= ] - 136s 1s/step - loss: 14
2.4443 - val loss: 143.6240
Epoch 5/20
106/106 [============== ] - 135s 1s/step - loss: 13
3.4148 - val loss: 143.9306
Epoch 6/20
6.8891 - val loss: 135.9931
Epoch 7/20
106/106 [============== ] - 135s 1s/step - loss: 12
1.5382 - val loss: 135.0774
Epoch 8/20
106/106 [============= ] - 136s 1s/step - loss: 11
6.9191 - val_loss: 136.0555
Epoch 9/20
2.5477 - val loss: 132.9485
Epoch 10/20
9.6481 - val loss: 135.8016
Epoch 11/20
6.0166 - val loss: 134.0774
Epoch 12/20
2.6430 - val loss: 133.0992
Epoch 13/20
106/106 [============= ] - 135s 1s/step - loss: 99
.6937 - val loss: 132.0863
Epoch 14/20
.9958 - val loss: 133.2542
Epoch 15/20
106/106 [============== ] - 135s 1s/step - loss: 93
.8712 - val loss: 136.9302
Epoch 16/20
.0683 - val loss: 135.6679
Epoch 17/20
.6571 - val loss: 139.3733
Epoch 18/20
106/106 [============= ] - 135s 1s/step - loss: 85
.9623 - val loss: 138.6771
Epoch 19/20
.4323 - val loss: 142.5754
Epoch 20/20
.3988 - val loss: 145.8300
```

# (IMPLEMENTATION) Model 3: Deeper RNN + TimeDistributed Dense

Review the code in rnn\_mode1, which makes use of a single recurrent layer. Now, specify an architecture in deep\_rnn\_mode1 that utilizes a variable number recur\_layers of recurrent layers. The figure below shows the architecture that should be returned if recur\_layers=2. In the figure, the output sequence of the first recurrent layer is used as input for the next recurrent layer.



Feel free to change the supplied values of units to whatever you think performs best. You can change the value of recur\_layers, as long as your final value is greater than 1. (As a quick check that you have implemented the additional functionality in deep\_rnn\_model correctly, make sure that the architecture that you specify here is identical to rnn\_model if recur\_layers=1.)

Layer (type)	Output	Shape		Param #
the_input (InputLayer)	(None,	None,	161)	0
rnn0 (GRU)	(None,	None,	200)	217200
bn_conv_1d0 (BatchNormalizat	(None,	None,	200)	800
rnn1 (GRU)	(None,	None,	200)	240600
bn_conv_1d1 (BatchNormalizat	(None,	None,	200)	800
time_distributed_3 (TimeDist	(None,	None,	29)	5829
softmax (Activation)	(None,	None,	29)	0
Total params: 465,229 Trainable params: 464,429 Non-trainable params: 800	=====	====		

None

Please execute the code cell below to train the neural network you specified in input\_to\_softmax. After the model has finished training, the model is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_3.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_3.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_3.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_3.pickle. You are welcome to tweak any of the optional parameters while calling the <a href="mailto:train\_model">train\_model</a> function, but this is not required.

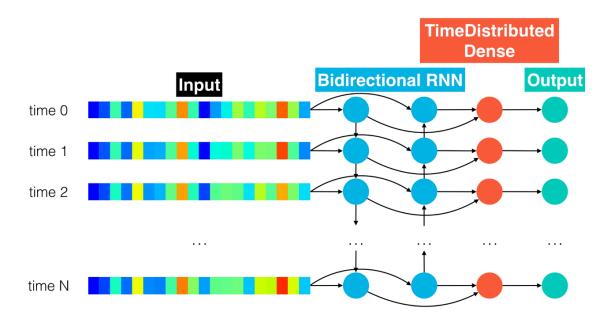
```
In [13]: train model(input to softmax=model 3,
              pickle path='model 3.pickle',
              save model path='model 3.h5',
              spectrogram=True) # change to False if you would like t
      o use MFCC features
      Epoch 1/20
      1.9068 - val_loss: 247.3803
      Epoch 2/20
      106/106 [============== ] - 590s 6s/step - loss: 22
      6.5966 - val loss: 212.9727
      Epoch 3/20
      106/106 [================ ] - 589s 6s/step - loss: 21
      6.5506 - val loss: 204.7811
      Epoch 4/20
      4.2341 - val loss: 187.7387
      Epoch 5/20
```

```
3.5590 - val loss: 169.1191
Epoch 6/20
7.5156 - val loss: 152.6269
Epoch 7/20
8.1904 - val loss: 145.8591
Epoch 8/20
1.4340 - val loss: 144.5857
Epoch 9/20
5.3355 - val loss: 140.2379
Epoch 10/20
1.4866 - val_loss: 137.5445
Epoch 11/20
106/106 [============== ] - 591s 6s/step - loss: 12
6.9737 - val loss: 136.9450
Epoch 12/20
106/106 [============== ] - 588s 6s/step - loss: 12
3.1910 - val loss: 134.0397
Epoch 13/20
0.3834 - val loss: 134.2020
Epoch 14/20
106/106 [============== ] - 589s 6s/step - loss: 11
7.4579 - val loss: 131.6181
Epoch 15/20
106/106 [============== ] - 590s 6s/step - loss: 11
4.1922 - val loss: 131.3766
Epoch 16/20
106/106 [============== ] - 587s 6s/step - loss: 11
1.7324 - val loss: 130.0227
Epoch 17/20
106/106 [============== ] - 599s 6s/step - loss: 10
9.0409 - val loss: 129.7898
Epoch 18/20
6.5852 - val loss: 126.5708
Epoch 19/20
4.2744 - val loss: 129.1225
Epoch 20/20
2.2118 - val loss: 128.1888
```

# (IMPLEMENTATION) Model 4: Bidirectional RNN + TimeDistributed Dense

Read about the <u>Bidirectional (https://keras.io/layers/wrappers/)</u> wrapper in the Keras documentation. For your next architecture, you will specify an architecture that uses a single bidirectional RNN layer, before a (TimeDistributed) dense layer. The added value of a bidirectional RNN is described well in <u>this paper (http://www.cs.toronto.edu/~hinton/absps/DRNN\_speech.pdf)</u>.

One shortcoming of conventional RNNs is that they are only able to make use of previous context. In speech recognition, where whole utterances are transcribed at once, there is no reason not to exploit future context as well. Bidirectional RNNs (BRNNs) do this by processing the data in both directions with two separate hidden layers which are then fed forwards to the same output layer.



Before running the code cell below, you must complete the bidirectional\_rnn\_model function in sample\_models.py. Feel free to use SimpleRNN, LSTM, or GRU units. When specifying the Bidirectional wrapper, use merge mode='concat'.

Layer (type)	Output	Shape		Param #
the_input (InputLayer)	(None,	None,	161)	0
bidirectional_1 (Bidirection	(None,	None,	400)	434400
time_distributed_4 (TimeDist	(None,	None,	29)	11629
softmax (Activation)	(None,	None,	29)	0
Total params: 446,029 Trainable params: 446,029 Non-trainable params: 0				
None				

Please execute the code cell below to train the neural network you specified in input\_to\_softmax. After the model has finished training, the model is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_4.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_4.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_4.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_4.pickle. You are welcome to tweak any of the optional parameters while calling the train model function, but this is not required.

In [15]: train model(input to softmax=model 4,

```
pickle path='model 4.pickle',
     save model path='model 4.h5',
     spectrogram=True) # change to False if you would like t
o use MFCC features
Epoch 1/20
7.9037 - val loss: 235.1560
Epoch 2/20
3.1460 - val loss: 216.9535
Epoch 3/20
7.8585 - val loss: 200.7436
Epoch 4/20
5.5096 - val loss: 193.9623
Epoch 5/20
2.9609 - val loss: 182.9779
Epoch 6/20
1.9020 - val loss: 175.5172
Epoch 7/20
1.6218 - val_loss: 165.5585
```

```
Epoch 8/20
0.9497 - val loss: 154.9817
Epoch 9/20
106/106 [============== ] - 479s 5s/step - loss: 15
1.1606 - val loss: 151.8747
Epoch 10/20
106/106 [============== ] - 479s 5s/step - loss: 14
3.5887 - val_loss: 145.4169
Epoch 11/20
7.3001 - val loss: 141.7247
Epoch 12/20
2.0067 - val loss: 138.4799
Epoch 13/20
6.7190 - val loss: 136.0770
Epoch 14/20
3.0234 - val loss: 134.0271
Epoch 15/20
8.6390 - val loss: 133.7281
Epoch 16/20
106/106 [============== ] - 477s 5s/step - loss: 11
5.3066 - val loss: 132.9813
Epoch 17/20
1.8763 - val loss: 132.0354
Epoch 18/20
106/106 [============== ] - 475s 4s/step - loss: 10
8.7478 - val loss: 129.7064
Epoch 19/20
5.8867 - val loss: 132.1726
Epoch 20/20
106/106 [============== ] - 480s 5s/step - loss: 10
3.1418 - val loss: 130.6942
```

# (OPTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION) Models 5+

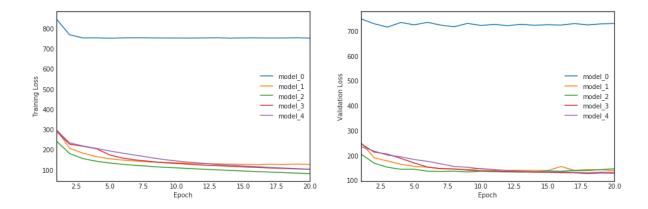
If you would like to try out more architectures than the ones above, please use the code cell below. Please continue to follow the same convention for saving the models; for the i-th sample model, please save the loss at  $model_i.pickle$  and saving the trained model at  $model_i.h5$ .

```
In [16]: ## (Optional) TODO: Try out some more models!
### Feel free to use as many code cells as needed.
```

# **Compare the Models**

Execute the code cell below to evaluate the performance of the drafted deep learning models. The training and validation loss are plotted for each model.

```
In [17]: from glob import glob
         import numpy as np
         import _pickle as pickle
         import seaborn as sns
         import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
         %matplotlib inline
         sns.set style(style='white')
         # obtain the paths for the saved model history
         all pickles = sorted(glob("results/*.pickle"))
         # extract the name of each model
         model names = [item[8:-7] for item in all pickles]
         # extract the loss history for each model
         valid loss = [pickle.load( open( i, "rb" ) )['val loss'] for i in a
         ll pickles]
         train_loss = [pickle.load( open( i, "rb" ) )['loss'] for i in all_p
         ickles
         # save the number of epochs used to train each model
         num epochs = [len(valid loss[i]) for i in range(len(valid loss))]
         fig = plt.figure(figsize=(16,5))
         # plot the training loss vs. epoch for each model
         ax1 = fig.add subplot(121)
         for i in range(len(all_pickles)):
             ax1.plot(np.linspace(1, num epochs[i], num epochs[i]),
                     train loss[i], label=model names[i])
         # clean up the plot
         ax1.legend()
         ax1.set_xlim([1, max(num_epochs)])
         plt.xlabel('Epoch')
         plt.ylabel('Training Loss')
         # plot the validation loss vs. epoch for each model
         ax2 = fig.add subplot(122)
         for i in range(len(all pickles)):
             ax2.plot(np.linspace(1, num epochs[i], num epochs[i]),
                     valid_loss[i], label=model_names[i])
         # clean up the plot
         ax2.legend()
         ax2.set xlim([1, max(num epochs)])
         plt.xlabel('Epoch')
         plt.ylabel('Validation Loss')
         plt.show()
```



**Question 1:** Use the plot above to analyze the performance of each of the attempted architectures. Which performs best? Provide an explanation regarding why you think some models perform better than others.

**Answer:** Model 3 seems to be the best performing architecture. Here we see it continues to decrease the validation loss the more it is trained is the one with the lowest validation loss at the endcompared to others. Further Model 2 improvement regarding model 1 is the CNN. Taking more hidden layers into account will allow the model to take into account more features and therefore potentially be more accurate. The amount of params from one model to another almost doubled. Model 3 sustitutes the CNN layer for an RNN layer (potentially for n RNN layers). RNN seem more appropriate for the given task as they perform better.

Also bidirectional RNN's (model 4) seem to perform better although the model used in this case seems to have overfitted the data in the last epochs (training loss decreased but validation loss increased). Adding dropout might help in this case.

We note models 2,3 and 4 have approximately the same amount of parameters also took about the same time to train butthe predictions below are not that great after all the training made but the final model seems to be the most accurate.

# (IMPLEMENTATION) Final Model

Now that you've tried out many sample models, use what you've learned to draft your own architecture! While your final acoustic model should not be identical to any of the architectures explored above, you are welcome to merely combine the explored layers above into a deeper architecture. It is **NOT** necessary to include new layer types that were not explored in the notebook.

However, if you would like some ideas for even more layer types, check out these ideas for some additional, optional extensions to your model:

- If you notice your model is overfitting to the training dataset, consider adding **dropout**! To add dropout to <u>recurrent layers (https://faroit.github.io/keras-docs/1.0.2/layers/recurrent/)</u>, pay special attention to the dropout\_W and dropout\_U arguments. This <u>paper</u> (http://arxiv.org/abs/1512.05287) may also provide some interesting theoretical background.
- If you choose to include a convolutional layer in your model, you may get better results by working with **dilated convolutions**. If you choose to use dilated convolutions, make sure that you are able to accurately calculate the length of the acoustic model's output in the

model.output\_length lambda function. You can read more about dilated convolutions in Google's <u>WaveNet paper (https://arxiv.org/abs/1609.03499)</u>. For an example of a speech-to-text system that makes use of dilated convolutions, check out this GitHub <u>repository (https://github.com/buriburisuri/speech-to-text-wavenet)</u>. You can work with dilated convolutions <u>in Keras (https://keras.io/layers/convolutional/)</u> by paying special attention to the padding argument when you specify a convolutional layer.

- If your model makes use of convolutional layers, why not also experiment with adding **max pooling**? Check out this paper (https://arxiv.org/pdf/1701.02720.pdf) for example architecture that makes use of max pooling in an acoustic model.
- So far, you have experimented with a single bidirectional RNN layer. Consider stacking the bidirectional layers, to produce a <u>deep bidirectional RNN</u> (<a href="https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~graves/asru\_2013.pdf">https://www.cs.toronto.edu/~graves/asru\_2013.pdf</a>)!

All models that you specify in this repository should have output\_length defined as an attribute. This attribute is a lambda function that maps the (temporal) length of the input acoustic features to the (temporal) length of the output softmax layer. This function is used in the computation of CTC loss; to see this, look at the add\_ctc\_loss function in train\_utils.py. To see where the output\_length attribute is defined for the models in the code, take a look at the sample\_models.py file. You will notice this line of code within most models:

```
model.output length = lambda x: x
```

The acoustic model that incorporates a convolutional layer (cnn\_rnn\_model) has a line that is a bit different:

In the case of models that use purely recurrent layers, the lambda function is the identity function, as the recurrent layers do not modify the (temporal) length of their input tensors. However, convolutional layers are more complicated and require a specialized function (cnn\_output\_length in sample\_models.py) to determine the temporal length of their output.

You will have to add the output\_length attribute to your final model before running the code cell below. Feel free to use the cnn output length function, if it suits your model.

Layer (type)	Output	Shape		Param #
the_input (InputLayer)	(None,	None,	161)	0
bidirectional_2 (Bidirection	(None,	None,	400)	434400
bidirectional_3 (Bidirection	(None,	None,	400)	721200
time_distributed_5 (TimeDist	(None,	None,	29)	11629
softmax (Activation)	(None,	None,	29)	0
Total params: 1,167,229 Trainable params: 1,167,229 Non-trainable params: 0				

None

Please execute the code cell below to train the neural network you specified in input\_to\_softmax. After the model has finished training, the model is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_end.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_end.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_end.h5. The loss history is <a href="mailto:save-a-keras-model">save-a-keras-model</a> in the HDF5 file model\_end.pickle. You are welcome to tweak any of the optional parameters while calling the train model function, but this is not required.

```
In [19]: train_model(input_to_softmax=model_end,
            pickle path='model end.pickle',
            save model path='model end.h5',
            spectrogram=True) # change to False if you would like t
     o use MFCC features
     Epoch 1/20
     319.0517 - val loss: 225.1105
     Epoch 2/20
     216.6707 - val loss: 195.7314
     Epoch 3/20
     106/106 [================ ] - 1077s 10s/step - loss:
     196.2351 - val loss: 178.9566
     Epoch 4/20
     178.1559 - val loss: 165.2106
     Epoch 5/20
     162.1099 - val loss: 154.0347
     Epoch 6/20
     148.5447 - val loss: 145.1725
```

```
Epoch 7/20
106/106 [============== ] - 1077s 10s/step - loss:
138.4097 - val loss: 137.3363
Epoch 8/20
106/106 [============== ] - 1073s 10s/step - loss:
129.3785 - val loss: 131.4517
Epoch 9/20
122.3918 - val_loss: 129.3066
Epoch 10/20
116.2647 - val loss: 126.7345
Epoch 11/20
110.5399 - val loss: 125.1008
Epoch 12/20
105.2989 - val loss: 122.3945
Epoch 13/20
100.5748 - val loss: 122.7359
Epoch 14/20
96.1424 - val loss: 120.8133
Epoch 15/20
106/106 [============== ] - 1080s 10s/step - loss:
91.7045 - val loss: 120.7551
Epoch 16/20
87.5912 - val loss: 120.6337
Epoch 17/20
106/106 [=============== ] - 1078s 10s/step - loss:
83.3243 - val loss: 120.9017
Epoch 18/20
79.2553 - val_loss: 123.7515
Epoch 19/20
106/106 [============== ] - 1088s 10s/step - loss:
75.6205 - val loss: 122.2311
Epoch 20/20
71.4068 - val loss: 124.1253
```

Question 2: Describe your final model architecture and your reasoning at each step.

### **Answer:**

The bidirectional RNN seem appropriate hence I tried to measure the performance of adding more bidirectional layers resulting in a deep bidirectional RNN. Even though there is lower validation loss, it clearly overfits as the testing loss decreased too much while validation loss reamined constant after epoch 12 approximately.

For the final model Architecture: I tried to merge the useful architectures of all the Models aboves. Used CNN to get more information from the data and then added BatchNormalization layer to avoid overfitting. Next tried bidirectional GRU but that takes too long to train and loss is also high. In the GRU unit I think we can also add dropout parameter to enhance the model and avoid overfitting.

So then I used Bidirectional GRU Unit along with Time Distributed Layer and Softmax to get the final output.

InputLayer-->ConvID-->BatchNormalization-->BiDirectional(GRU)-->BatchNormalization-->TimeDistributed(Dense)-->SoftMax

# **STEP 3: Obtain Predictions**

We have written a function for you to decode the predictions of your acoustic model. To use the function, please execute the code cell below.

```
In [20]: import numpy as np
         from data generator import AudioGenerator
         from keras import backend as K
         from utils import int sequence to text
         from IPython.display import Audio
         def get predictions(index, partition, input to softmax, model path)
             """ Print a model's decoded predictions
             Params:
                 index (int): The example you would like to visualize
                 partition (str): One of 'train' or 'validation'
                 input to softmax (Model): The acoustic model
                 model path (str): Path to saved acoustic model's weights
             # load the train and test data
             data gen = AudioGenerator()
             data_gen.load_train_data()
             data gen.load validation data()
             # obtain the true transcription and the audio features
             if partition == 'validation':
                 transcr = data gen.valid texts[index]
                 audio path = data gen.valid audio paths[index]
                 data_point = data_gen.normalize(data_gen.featurize(audio_pa
         th))
             elif partition == 'train':
                 transcr = data gen.train texts[index]
                 audio path = data gen.train audio paths[index]
                 data_point = data_gen.normalize(data_gen.featurize(audio_pa
         th))
             else:
                 raise Exception('Invalid partition! Must be "train" or "va
         lidation"')
             # obtain and decode the acoustic model's predictions
             input to softmax.load weights(model path)
             prediction = input to softmax.predict(np.expand dims(data point
         , axis=0))
             output length = [input to softmax.output length(data point.shap
             pred ints = (K.eval(K.ctc decode(
                         prediction, output length)[0][0])+1).flatten().toli
         st()
             # play the audio file, and display the true and predicted trans
         criptions
             print('-'*80)
             Audio(audio path)
             print('True transcription:\n' + '\n' + transcr)
             print('-'*80)
             print('Predicted transcription:\n' + '\n' + ''.join(int_sequenc
         e to text(pred ints)))
             print('-'*80)
```

Use the code cell below to obtain the transcription predicted by your final model for the first example in the training dataset.

Layer (type)	Output	Shape		Param #	
the_input (InputLayer)	(None,	None,		0	
bidirectional_4 (Bidirection	(None,	None,	400)	434400	
bidirectional_5 (Bidirection	(None,	None,	400)	721200	
time_distributed_6 (TimeDist	(None,	None,	29)	11629	
softmax (Activation)	(None,		•	0	
Total params: 1,167,229 Trainable params: 1,167,229 Non-trainable params: 0					
None					
True transcription:					
the houses seemed miserable in the extreme especially to an eye ac customed to the smiling neatness of english cottages					
Predicted transcription:					
the hos a semdo mes rugll an the exstornene a spaslyto an y custon to the smaling neetes of ten lish coutatats					

Use the next code cell to visualize the model's prediction for the first example in the validation dataset.

```
In [22]: get_predictions(index=0,
                         partition='validation',
                         input_to_softmax=final_model(input_dim=161,##Adding
         params
```

units=200, recur\_layers=2), model\_path='results/model\_end.h5')

Layer (type)	Output	-		Param #
the_input (InputLayer)			161)	0
bidirectional_6 (Bidirection	(None,	None,	400)	434400
bidirectional_7 (Bidirection	(None,	None,	400)	721200
time_distributed_7 (TimeDist	(None,	None,	29)	11629
softmax (Activation)	(None,	None,	29)	0
Total params: 1,167,229 Trainable params: 1,167,229 Non-trainable params: 0				
None				
True transcription:				
venice				
Predicted transcription:				
o vones				

```
In [23]: get predictions(index=0,
                       partition='train',
                       input to softmax=model 4,
                       model_path='results/model_4.h5')
        _____
        True transcription:
        the houses seemed miserable in the extreme especially to an eye ac
        customed to the smiling neatness of english cottages
        Predicted transcription:
        the hoose semd meserabaan the estren e sptreselato e an y cos ento
        the s malin e nes if bing las cuna tis
In [24]: get_predictions(index=0,
                       partition='train',
                       input to softmax=model 3,
                       model_path='results/model_3.h5')
        True transcription:
        the houses seemed miserable in the extreme especially to an eye ac
        customed to the smiling neatness of english cottages
        _____
        Predicted transcription:
        the hoas issin dmis or blelin heaxtrorm maspesly to and iycosetont
        o the smlinne nisof inglish ai jis
```

```
In [25]: get predictions(index=0,
                       partition='train',
                       input to softmax=model 2,
                       model_path='results/model_2.h5')
        _____
        True transcription:
        the houses seemed miserable in the extreme especially to an eye ac
        customed to the smiling neatness of english cottages
        Predicted transcription:
        the housiseimd miseroblein theinxstrim astpsed layt n o tcoust on
        to the skiling ne thies a teing licedoitatos
In [26]: get_predictions(index=0,
                       partition='train',
                       input_to_softmax=model 1,
                       model path='results/model 1.h5')
        True transcription:
        the houses seemed miserable in the extreme especially to an eye ac
        customed to the smiling neatness of english cottages
        _____
        Predicted transcription:
        the aissendo meseroeonextroispaslatn ocostontothesmiin insoinlesco
        tos
```

One standard way to improve the results of the decoder is to incorporate a language model. We won't pursue this in the notebook, but you are welcome to do so as an *optional extension*.

If you are interested in creating models that provide improved transcriptions, you are encouraged to download <u>more data (http://www.openslr.org/12/)</u> and train bigger, deeper models. But beware - the model will likely take a long while to train. For instance, training this <u>state-of-the-art</u> (https://arxiv.org/pdf/1512.02595v1.pdf) model would take 3-6 weeks on a single GPU!